

was always willing to lend a hand to those in need.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Thomas Conrad for his exemplary service to his community and his country.

VIRGINIA KEY BEACH RESOURCE
STUDY BILL

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Virginia Key Beach in Miami, Florida is a historically important and environmentally significant place that should be restored and preserved. This is why I have introduced a bill to study the possible inclusion of Virginia Key as part of the National Park Service, and I ask my colleagues to support it.

H.R. 2109 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Virginia Key Beach, Florida, for inclusion in the National Park System.

Virginia Key is a 1,000-acre barrier island, characterized by a unique and sensitive natural environment, situated just off the mainland of the City of Miami, between Key Biscayne to the south and Fisher Island to the north.

Although there has been some limited development, the island is non-residential and includes ponds and waterways, a tropical hardwood hammock, and a large wildlife conservation area.

Beyond its natural attributes, Virginia Key is also worthy of inclusion in the National Park System because it illustrates our nation's progress toward achieving racial justice. When integrated, as they should be, beaches can be democratizing spaces, which naturally perform a communal function of bringing people together. But this was not the case in South Florida where, for decades, beaches were strictly segregated by race.

As the only beach in Miami that permitted blacks from the 1940s to the 1960s, Virginia Key provided the only escape and source of recreation for countless African American families in South Florida. Virginia Key was the site for baptism and religious services, courtships and honeymoons, organizational gatherings, visiting celebrities and family recreation.

Today, Virginia Key is being restored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, but its value to the nation and to Florida is based not just on its natural beauty, but also as a symbol of the ongoing struggle of African Americans for equal rights and social justice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this important legislation.

DIGHTON HONORS VETERANS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, the town of Dighton, Massachusetts has been steadfast in

its commitment to honoring those who have served our country in time of war. Originally the Veterans Memorial in Dighton covered the Civil War and World War I. The people of Dighton, led by the veterans, have admirably decided to expand, to recognize fully the veterans of all of our wars for their gallantry, patriotism, and sacrifice.

Thus, on Saturday, June 16, at 10:00 a.m., the Town of Dighton will dedicate the Dighton Veterans Memorial Common, which will feature seven flag poles in a semi-circle commemorating each branch of the U.S. military, as well as the flag of the United States and the POW flag. There will also be four granite benches listing the names of all of the residents of Dighton who died in the wars of our country in defense of freedom. World War II veteran John Pimenta spear headed this effort, which was coordinated by Alice Pimenta, a tireless worker for this cause. And we are all grateful to the Dighton Power Charitable Fund for financial assistance in this very worthy project.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to facilitate the flying of a flag over the Capitol that will now take its permanent place in this important memorial.

The dedication will take place under the leadership of Commander Ronald Louis Naro, of Rapoza/Knott VFW Post 2094 of North Dighton. Mr. Speaker, this is an important event of which the citizens of Dighton are justifiably proud, and I am proud to have played a small part in it, and to be able to call the attention of the nation to this important act of memorial.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, last week due to an urgent family matter, I was unable to be in Washington for Roll Call votes #150-155. Had I been here, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call votes #150-155.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICHARD
HUSBY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard Husby of Lansing, Michigan for being selected as the recipient of the national American Water Works Association 2001 Exemplary Wellhead Protection Award.

Mr. Husby has been the manager of West Side Water in Lansing, Michigan since July 1, 1979. West Side Water purchases treated water from Lansing's Board of Water and Light, and sells it to its customers, having to continuously comply with Environmental Protection Agency rules and regulations on drinking water standards.

Mr. Husby is on the Board of Trustees of Mid-Michigan Water Supply which carries out the proper management and protection of ground water. He is also a member of the Capital Area Ground Water Alliance and is a board member of the Youth Education Committee that educates children about the importance of a clean environment and clean ground water.

The American Water Works Association has awarded him with the 2001 Exemplary Wellhead Protection Award for his commitment to plugging abandoned wells and for educating the citizens of Mid-Michigan on how to detect abandoned wells and the dangers they present.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Richard Husby for being awarded the American Water Works Association's 2001 Exemplary Wellhead Protection Award.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE MICHIGAN
STATE UNIVERSITY CLASS
OF 2001

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 2001 graduating class of Michigan State University. Due to their hard work and dedication, they are now prepared to make significant contributions to the State of Michigan and the United States of America.

As graduates from the first land grant University in the United States, whatever endeavors the Michigan State class of 2001 may pursue, success is certain to follow.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Michigan State University Class of 2001. May this only be the beginning of the great accomplishments they will achieve in their lifetime.

TO HONOR ELVIRA ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL IN TUCSON, ARIZONA

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to an elementary school in my district that has an outstanding record of commitment to its children and the community. The accomplishments of this school recently received national recognition from the Department of Education, which named it a Blue Ribbon School. I'd like my colleagues to take a moment and join me in paying tribute to Elvira Elementary School in Tucson, Arizona.

Elvira Elementary School is a kindergarten through fifth-grade school in the Sunnyside Unified School District in the southwest portion of Tucson, Arizona. It is a school that has welcomed many challenges and been described as the "best of the best in public education," by one of our local newspapers in Tucson. In